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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "International drug control" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 103 at its 13th to 18th and 24th meetings, on 23, 24, 27 and 28 October and on 3 and 6 November 1997, and took action on the item at its 29th meeting, on 7 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.13-18, 24, 28 and 29).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997 (A/52/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (A/52/296);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 on the question of narcotic drugs (A/52/336);

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(d) Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/127);

(e) Letter dated 28 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declarations of the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Asunción on 23 and 24 August 1997 (A/52/347);

(f) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

(g) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/52/447-S/1997/775).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 23 October, the Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/52/SR.13).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/52/L.14 AND CORR.1

5. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled, "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking" (A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1). Subsequently, Albania, Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Singapore and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 29th meeting, on 7 November, Barbados, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mozambique, Poland, Senegal, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/148 of 21 December 1995 and 51/64 of 12 December 1996,

Gravely concerned that, despite continued increased efforts by States and relevant international organizations, there is a global expansion of illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, which threatens the health, safety and well-being of millions of persons, in particular young people, in all countries, as well as the political and socio-economic systems and the stability, national security and sovereignty of an increasing number of States,

Deeply alarmed by the growing and spreading violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and illicit traffic of arms and precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing that enhanced international cooperation and effective strategies are essential to achieve results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Convinced of the growing need for closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating drug-related crimes, such as terrorism, illicit arms trade and money laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Fully aware that States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and multilateral development banks need to accord a higher priority and political determination to dealing with this scourge, which undermines development, economic and political stability and democratic institutions, and the combat against which entails increasing economic costs for Governments and the irreparable loss of human lives,

Reaffirming and stressing the need for increased efforts to implement the comprehensive framework for international cooperation in drug control provided by the existing drug control conventions, the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking[1] and the Comprehensive

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[1] See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[2] the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, which was devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, the Declaration adopted by the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat,[4] the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control,[5] the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime[6] and other relevant international standards,

Underlining the importance of a balanced approach in efforts undertaken by Member States in the fight against illicit demand, production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the efforts of countries that produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[7]

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can make an effective contribution to addressing the illicit drug problem,

Recognizing that the use of the Internet poses new opportunities and challenges to international cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Stressing that respect for human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

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[2] Ibid., sect. A.

[3] Resolution S-17/2.

[4] A/45/262, annex.

[5] See A/49/139-E/1994/57.

[6] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I.A.

[7] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

Emphasizing the need for a continued analysis of transit routes used by drug traffickers, which are constantly changing and expanding to include a growing number of countries and regions in all parts of the world,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, the leadership role and commendable work done by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted international action and the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent monitoring authority, as set out in the international drug control treaties,

Recalling the important and central role of relevant United Nations bodies in evaluating the implementation by States parties of their obligations under the United Nations drug control treaties, as set out in those treaties,

Recalling its resolution 51/64, section IV, in which it decided to convene for three days in June 1998 a special session of the General Assembly, in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs, and convinced that the special session will make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the United Nations and its Member States in the fight against this global problem,

I

RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. Reaffirms that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

2. Calls upon all States to intensify their actions to promote effective cooperation in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving this end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

II

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. Renews its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the cultivation for illegal purposes, illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and to controlling and preventing the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals

used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic and psychotropic substances, in accordance with obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions, based on the principle of shared responsibility and taking into account experience gained;

2. Urges all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[7] as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[8] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[9] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[10]

3. Calls upon all States to adopt adequate national laws and regulations, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments;

4. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

(a) To continue to support the focus on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, particularly the master-plan approach, and to complement those strategies with effective interregional strategies;

(b) To undertake additional measures to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed on further progress made in this area;

(c) To continue to provide legal assistance to Member States that request it in adjusting their national laws, policies and infrastructures to implement the international drug control conventions, as well as assistance in training personnel responsible for applying the new laws;

(d) To continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories;

(e) To continue to include in its report on illicit traffic in drugs an assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means for improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

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[8] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[10] See Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

5. Reaffirms the danger and threat posed to civil society by illicit drug trafficking and its links to terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering and the illicit arms trade, and encourages Governments to deal with this threat and to cooperate to prevent the channelling of funds to and between those engaged in such activities;

6. Calls upon States to adopt effective measures to stem the illicit trade in small arms, which, as a result of its close link to the illicit drug trade, is generating within the societies of some States extremely high levels of crime and violence threatening the national security and economies of these States;

7. Acknowledges that there are links between the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic and social conditions in the affected countries and that there are differences and diversity in the problems of each country;

8. Calls upon the international community to provide increased economic and technical support to Governments that request it for programmes of alternative and sustainable development, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production and which take fully into account the cultural traditions of peoples;

9. Recalls the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995,[11] and stresses the importance of participation of youth organizations and youth in decision-making processes, in particular in relation to demand reduction programmes for illicit drugs;

10. Stresses the need for effective government action to prevent the diversion to illicit markets of precursors and essential chemicals, materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

11. Commends the valuable work, the reports and recommendations therein of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring the production and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so as to limit their use to medical and scientific purposes, and urges increased efforts to implement its mandate under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 concerning the monitoring of the movement of precursors and essential chemicals;

12. Notes that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out its mandate, including under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assign adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996;

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[11] Resolution 50/81, annex.

13. Calls upon States to increase efforts, with international cooperation, to reduce and eliminate illegal crops from which narcotics are obtained, as well as to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs, in accordance with their obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

14. Underlines the need for Governments, with international cooperation, to increase and implement alternative development programmes with the objective of reducing and eliminating the production of illicit drugs, taking into account the economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of the area concerned;

15. Emphasizes the need to maintain the capacity of the International Narcotics Control Board, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

16. Reaffirms the importance of achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991-2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

17. Urges the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to complete its work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction being developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in consultation with Member States, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its special session in 1998 for adoption, and calls upon Member States to continue to cooperate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme by providing relevant information and their views on the draft declaration with due regard to the linkages between demand and supply reduction activities;

18. Urges also the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, to complete its work on a political commitment, money laundering, judicial cooperation, precursors, stimulants and alternative development, in preparation of the special session;

19. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/41 of 21 July 1997 on the implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their efforts to control precursors and their substitutes in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and to implement as a high priority the measures contained in that resolution;

20. Takes note of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors,[12] and welcomes the

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[12] Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/39, annex.

contribution of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking;

III

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. Reaffirms the importance of the Global Programme of Action[1] as a comprehensive framework for national, regional and international action to combat illicit production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. Calls upon States to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, with a view to translating it into practical action for drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels;

3. Urges all Governments and competent regional organizations to develop a balanced approach within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction activities, giving adequate priority to prevention, treatment, research, social reintegration and training, in the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, which should include raising public awareness on the detrimental effects of drug abuse;

4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental organizations and all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations, the media and the private sector, to cooperate more closely with and assist States in their efforts to promote and implement the Global Programme of Action;

5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages them to pursue those efforts so as to increase the number of Governments that report on a regular basis;

6. Notes the efforts being made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other United Nations bodies to obtain reliable data on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, encourages the Programme, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, to take further steps to facilitate the efficient collection of data so as to avoid duplication of effort, and encourages also the increased and timely provision of updated information by Member States;

7. Reaffirms the importance of strengthening the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse, as called for by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1996/20;

8. Invites the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue providing assistance to Member States that request it in their efforts to establish appropriate mechanisms to collect and analyse data and to seek voluntary resources for this purpose;

9. Underlines the importance of precise and reliable information on the impact of the drug problem on the world economy;

10. Calls upon Member States to continue to make efforts to provide systematic, precise and updated information to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the various ways in which the drug problem affects their economies;

IV

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities;[13]

2. Decides that the special session will be held, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/238 of 21 July 1997, from 8 to 10 June 1998, and calls upon Member States to participate at a high political level;

3. Stresses that the special session should be devoted to assessing the existing situation within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach that includes all aspects of the problem, with a view to strengthening international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[10] and other relevant conventions and international instruments;

4. Reaffirms that, at its special session, it will address the issues on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and with full respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

5. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure adequate preparation of the special session;

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[13] E/1997/48.

6. Takes note of the Economic and Social Council decision 1997/234 of 21 July 1997, in which the Council decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-first session should devote at least five days to the preparation of the special session;

7. Notes with appreciation the initiatives of Member States aimed at providing inputs to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its capacity as a preparatory forum for the special session, including the convening of groups of high-level governmental experts;

8. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action contained in the annex to Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their substantive contribution and active involvement during the special session, and, in that context, invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations in the special session;

9. Decides to invite States members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

10. Reaffirms the objectives of the special session contained in section IV, paragraphs 11 and 12, of its resolution 51/64, which provide the basis for the draft agenda of the special session;

11. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1997/239 of 21 July 1997 on the preparations for the special session;

12. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its capacity as the preparatory organ, to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations for the special session;

13. Stresses the importance of taking into account a gender perspective in preparing the outcomes of the special session;

14. Urges organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including multilateral development banks, to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, in particular by submitting as soon as possible to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as the preparatory body for the special session, through the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, concrete recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the special session;

15. Requests the Secretary General to provide the necessary support to ensure the success of the special session and to give particular attention to the need for raising global awareness of the holding of the special session and of its importance;

V

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL: ACTION BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. Supports the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control[5] as a vital tool for the coordination and enhancement of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system;

2. Reaffirms the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities, so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

3. Urges the United Nations organizations associated with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control to collaborate further with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to integrate the drug control dimension and assistance into their programming and planning processes to ensure that the drug problem is being addressed in all its aspects in relevant programmes;

4. Takes note of the recent action taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure the increased commitment by the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as international financial institutions, to include the drug control dimension in their programmes of work;

5. Invites Member States to engage United Nations agencies and multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem in all its aspects and to promote due consideration by governing bodies of requests for assistance for drug control programmes at the national level;

VI

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandates within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[2] the Global Programme of Action[3] and relevant consensus documents;

2. Welcomes the publication of the World Drug Report prepared by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

3. Notes with concern the decline of available resources for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

4. Welcomes Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XL) of 25 March 1997 concerning the revised budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the

proposed outline for the biennium 1998-1999 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and urges all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the organization by widening the donor base of the Programme and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

5. Invites Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations activities related to drug control;

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund and to improve the budget presentation for the biennium 1996-1997 and the proposed outline for the biennium for 1998-1999, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation of the budget;

7. Stresses the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

8. Stresses the need to strengthen United Nations activities in the field of narcotic drugs and takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/37 of 21 July 1997, entitled 'Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations';

VII

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting:

(a) To include in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States;

(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[15]

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[14] A/52/296.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Advancement of women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 106 at its 7th to 12th meetings, from 20 to 23 October 1997, and took action on the item at its 18th, 24th, 28th to 31st and 37th meetings, on 28 October and 3, 6, 7, 10 and 14 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.7-12, 18, 24, 28-31 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997 (A/52/3);[1]

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/52/38/Rev.1);[2]

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1).

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/52/38/Rev.1).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/52/326);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/52/337);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/52/352);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in women and girls (A/52/355);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/52/356);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/52/408);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/52/300);

(j) Letter dated 14 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the report on the policy of ethnic cleansing/genocide conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the necessity of bringing to justice the persons who committed these crimes (A/52/116-S/1997/317);

(k) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(l) Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted on the occasion of the twenty-first annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 September 1997 (A/52/460);

(m) Letter dated 12 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/8).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 20 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.3/52/SR.7).

5. At the 9th meeting, on 21 October, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/52/SR.9).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.15/Rev.1

6. At the 31st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, San Marino, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/52/L.15/Rev.1) and further revised it orally as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "many" was inserted before the words "developing countries" and the words "and will continue to be so in the years to come" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 2, subparagraph (g), the words "policies and" were inserted before the word "programmes".

7. At the 37th meeting, on 14 November, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Gabon, Guyana, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Malawi, Mali, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution; Mauritania, Pakistan and Senegal withdrew as sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. Also at the 37th meeting, general statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Iraq, Bahrain, Zambia and South Africa. Subsequently, the representatives of Morocco, Oman, Mauritania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Qatar and Jordan made statements in explanation of position (see A/C.3/52/SR.37).

9. At the 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.15/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution I).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya made a statement (see A/C.3/52/SR.37).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1[3]

11. At the 28th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Norway, on behalf of the Bahamas, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South

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[3] The draft resolution was also considered under agenda item 106, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women" (see A/52/638).

Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "United Nations Development Fund for Women" (A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1).

12. At the 30th meeting, on 7 November, Austria, Finland, Italy, Malaysia and Sweden joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17

14. At the 18th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, Austria, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/C.3/52/L.17). Subsequently, Israel joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the 24th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17 without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.18

16. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat" (A/C.3/52/L.18).

17. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Canada orally revised it as follows:

(a) After the second preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"Recalling also its resolutions 51/67 of 12 December 1996 and 51/226 C of 3 April 1997 on the status of women in the Secretariat";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "certain countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition" were replaced by the words "women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition".

18. At the 29th meeting, on 7 November, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Burundi, Colombia, Croatia, Guyana, India, Namibia, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.18, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.19

20. At the 18th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia, Ireland, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/52/L.19).

21. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "Stressing" was replaced by the word "Recognizing";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the word "including" was inserted after the words "migrant workers", the word "including" was deleted before the words "by developing strategies", and the word "the" was inserted before the word "innovative".

22. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, Israel, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.19, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1

24. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Traffic in women and girls" (A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1).

25. At the 29th meeting, on 7 November, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, the Netherlands, Poland, Thailand and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

26. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution VI).

G. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.21

27. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls" (A/C.3/52/L.21).

28. At the 29th meeting, on 7 November, Armenia, Brazil, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Guinea, Iceland, Latvia, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, the Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.21 without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution VII).

30. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement (see A/C.3/52/SR.29).

H. Draft decision

31. At its 37th meeting, on 14 November, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following reports (see para. 33):

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/52/38/Rev.1);[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/52/337);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/52/352).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

32. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, in which it endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,[4] and its resolutions 44/78 of 8 December 1989, 48/109 of 20 December 1993 and 50/165 of 22 December 1995,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[5] and by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[6]

Recalling further its resolution 47/174 of 22 December 1992, in which it welcomed the adoption of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva in February 1992,[7] and urged all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in that Declaration,

Welcoming the growing awareness of Governments of the need for strategies and programmes to improve the situation of women in rural areas,

Welcoming also the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Microcredit Summit, held at Washington, D.C., in February 1997, in which micro-finance was identified as an important instrument of poverty alleviation, including for rural women,[8]

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[4] See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), transmitted to the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

[5] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[6] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

[8] A/52/113-E/1997/18, annex I.

Noting with deep concern that the economic and financial crises in many developing countries have severely affected the socio-economic status of women, especially in rural areas, and the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty, including girls and older women,

Mindful of the need for fuller recognition and appreciation of the contribution of rural women to socio-economic development, including human capital development,

Mindful also that despite the global trend towards rapid urbanization, many developing countries are still largely rural,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas;[9]

2. Invites Member States, in their efforts to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Food Summit, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), bearing in mind also the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including older women, in their national development strategies, paying special attention to both their practical and strategic needs, by, inter alia:

(a) Integrating the concerns of rural women into national development policies and programmes, in particular by placing a higher priority on budgetary allocation related to the interests of rural women;

(b) Strengthening national machineries and establishing institutional linkages among governmental bodies in various sectors and non-governmental organizations that are concerned with rural development;

(c) Increasing the awareness of rural women of their rights and their role in political and socio-economic development;

(d) Increasing the participation of rural women in the decision-making process at the local and national levels;

(e) Designing and revising laws to ensure that women have equal access to and control over land, unmediated by male relatives, in order to end land rights discrimination; according women secure use rights and full representation in the decision-making bodies that allocate land and other forms of property, credit, information and new technologies; and, in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, according women full and equal rights to own land and other

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[9] A/52/326.

property, inter alia, through inheritance; land reform programmes should begin by acknowledging the equality of women's rights to land and take other measures to increase land availability to poor women and men;

(f) Investing in the human resources of rural women, particularly through health and literacy programmes and social support measures;

(g) Promoting and strengthening micro-financing policies and programmes, cooperatives and other employment opportunities;

(h) Ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible and recorded in economic surveys and statistics at the national level;

3. Requests the international community and relevant United Nations organizations and bodies to promote further the realization of the programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women within the overall framework of integrated follow-up to recent global conferences;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, in which it established the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and the Beijing Platform for Action,[10] which reaffirmed that the Fund had the mandate to increase options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, by which it decided to make the United Nations Development Fund for Women a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing the important contribution the Fund continues to make in providing technical assistance to enable Governments and organizations of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to formulate and support policies and innovative activities that directly benefit and empower women,

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[10] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1996 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.1996.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Considering the innovative and experimental activities of the Fund directed towards strengthening both governmental and non-governmental institutional capacities to ensure for women access to development cooperation resources and full participation at all levels in the development process,

Taking note of the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, in accordance with the mandate of the Fund,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;[11]

2. Emphasizes the important work of the Fund in women's empowerment and gender equality within the framework of implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, and in that context notes the recently adopted strategy and business plan;

3. Reaffirms the catalytic role of the Fund in further developing and strengthening women's empowerment by enhancing the integration of a gender perspective into all development programmes, in accordance with its mandate;

4. Stresses the role of the Fund as a development fund in supporting activities related to women's economic and social development in developing countries;

5. Notes the intention of the Fund further to focus its interventions in support of women's empowerment and gender equality;

6. Encourages the Fund to continue to contribute to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all development efforts of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and civil society;

7. Also encourages the Fund to strengthen its work within the United Nations system at the national level through the resident coordinator system, focusing on strategic interventions and building upon its comparative advantages, in order to promote systemic change, in particular with regard to women's political and economic empowerment;

8. Endorses the role of the Fund in strengthening women's economic capacity, encouraging women to become key economic players in combating the feminization of poverty and strengthening women's leadership and political empowerment in order to increase their participation in decision-making processes;

9. Recognizes the important role the Fund plays in promoting the realization of women's civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights so as to facilitate their full participation in society;

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[11] A/52/300, annex.

10. Welcomes the operationalization of the Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women, and requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women to disseminate information on best practices and strategic interventions funded under that initiative which should contribute to the eradication of violence against women as an obstacle to development;

11. Encourages the United Nations Development Fund for Women to continue to mobilize resources for its activities, in order to fulfil its mandate, in a comprehensive manner from all available sources, including the private sector, and urges all Member States to contribute and to consider increasing their contributions to it;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to be submitted in accordance with resolution 39/125.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/39 of 25 July 1996,

Taking note also of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventeenth session,[12]

Reaffirming paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing on 15 September 1995,[13]

Concerned about the declining resource base of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

1. Welcomes the appointment of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and takes note with appreciation of the work done by the previous Acting Director;

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[12] E/1997/53.

[13] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2. Urges the Secretary-General to fill the existing vacancies in the Institute in order to permit it to carry out its mandate;

3. Emphasizes the role of the Institute as the only gender unit for research and training within the United Nations system and reiterates the relevant provisions contained in the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council;[14]

4. Requests the Institute to continue its cooperation with relevant entities of the United Nations system;

5. Also requests the Institute to better coordinate its activities for gender mainstreaming with relevant entities of the United Nations system with a view to developing joint activities and work plans in appropriate areas;

6. Welcomes the fact that in its activities the Institute places a high priority on the obstacles that limit or impede women from becoming equal partners in development;

7. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments and organizations that have contributed to and supported the activities of the Institute;

8. Invites Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to respond effectively to its mandate;

9. Requests the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to develop a funding strategy and to establish a link between the activities of the Institute and its resource base;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

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[14] A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. B, agreed conclusions 1997/3. To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1).

Recalling the goal contained in the Platform for Action[15] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women for the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 51/67 of 12 December 1996 and 51/226 C of 3 April 1997 on the status of women in the Secretariat,

Welcoming the achievement of the interim goal set in Assembly resolution 45/125 of 14 December 1990 of a 35 per cent overall participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution,

Concerned that the interim goal set in Assembly resolution 45/239 C of 21 December 1990 of a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above is still far from being achieved, and that the representation of women at that level remains unacceptably low,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein;[16]

2. Reaffirms the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

3. Welcomes the personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting that goal, and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General to implement fully and monitor the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000)[17] in order to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000, especially at the D-1 level and above;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys and to pursue good offices on his behalf in matters related to peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy, and economic and social development, as well as to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

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[15] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[16] A/52/408.

[17] A/49/587 and Corr.1 and sect. IV.

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers are held accountable to implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through the development of policies for flexible working time, workplace possibilities, family leave, child-care and elder care needs, as well as through training, particularly at senior levels, and the implementation of all appropriate administrative procedures, in particular the special measures outlined in his report,[16] and through further development of a policy against sexual harassment;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to enable the Focal Point for Women in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to effectively monitor and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

9. Strongly encourages Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates and encouraging more women to apply for those positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[18]

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[18] Resolution 48/104.

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights,[19] the International Conference on Population and Development,[20] the World Summit for Social Development[21] and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[22] specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for accurate, objective and comprehensive information, as well as for a wide exchange of experiences and lessons learned by individual countries in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers for policy formulation and joint action,

Acknowledging the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women Migrant Workers, held at Manila from 27 to 31 May 1996, and the comments thereon by Member States and relevant international organizations,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to sending and receiving States from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[23]

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[19] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[20] See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[21] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[22] See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[23] A/52/356.

2. Encourages concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to develop, as appropriate, systematic data collection methods and to update and share information on violence against women migrant workers;

3. Urges concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to strengthen their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States;

4. Urges concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for relevant target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grassroots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

5. Encourages concerned Governments, particularly those of sending and receiving countries, to support training programmes for public officials dealing with the problem of violence against women migrant workers, in particular law enforcers, to assist women migrant workers who are victims of violence and in the reporting of such cases and the prosecution of the perpetrators, to provide adequate consular, counselling, legal and welfare services and to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[24] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[25]

7. Invites all relevant United Nations human rights treaty bodies, particularly the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, relevant thematic and country rapporteurs, particularly the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its working groups, within their respective mandates, to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers in their deliberations and findings with a view to promoting and protecting their rights and welfare;

8. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers at its forty-second session under the thematic issues on violence against women and/or human rights of women;

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[24] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[25] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, No. 2861.

9. Invites the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights at their sessions in 1998 to address the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[19] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[26]

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, taking into account the views of Member States and based on the expertise and all available information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration, and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[27] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[28] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[29] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[30] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[32]

Recalling the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[33]

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[26] Resolution 217 A (III).

[27] Resolution 217 A (III).

[28] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[29] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[30] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[31] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[32] Resolution 48/104.

[33] Resolution 317 (IV).

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996 on traffic in women and girls,

Reaffirming the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights,[34] the International Conference on Population and Development,[35] the World Summit for Social Development,[36] the Fourth World Conference on Women[37] and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders pertaining to the traffic in women and children,[38]

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of young boys,

Emphasizing the need for more concerted and sustained national, regional and international action over the alarming levels of trafficking in women and girls,

Acknowledging the continuing work of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in combating trafficking in women and girls through preventive education, information dissemination, research and the provision of shelters and programmes to rehabilitate and reintegrate survivors in society,

Deeply concerned with the increasing unabated use of new information technologies for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia, sex tourism and trafficking in women as brides,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, and that sexual violence and sexual trafficking are violations of the human rights

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[34] See Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[35] See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[36] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[37] See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[38] See Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995 (A/CONF.169/16).

of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Stressing the need for Governments to accord standard minimum humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls;[39]

2. Welcomes national, regional, and international efforts to implement the recommendations of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,[40] and calls upon Governments to take further measures in that regard;

3. Also welcomes actions undertaken by Governments to implement the provisions on trafficking in women and girls contained in the Beijing Platform for Action[41] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[34] and calls upon Governments, particularly those of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to undertake immediate action or to strengthen efforts in their implementation by:

(a) Considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(b) Taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(c) Stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(d) Allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and taking measures to

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[39] A/52/355.

[40] World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, 27-31 August 1996, Final Report of the Congress, two vols. (Stockholm, Government of Sweden, January 1997).

[41] See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(e) Developing educational and training programmes and policies, and considering enacting legislation to prevent sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

4. Calls upon Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms, to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

5. Urges concerned Governments to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, and programmes providing shelters and helplines to victims or potential victims;

6. Encourages Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods and to continuously update information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates;

7. Urges Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices;

8. Invites Governments once again, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

9. Invites Governments and civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to promote the responsible use of new information technologies, in particular the Internet, to prevent trafficking in women and girls;

10. Invites States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[28] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, taking into account the general recommendation of the Committee, and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, respectively;

11. Invites the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on

Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, to continue addressing, within their respective mandates, the problem of trafficking in women and girls as a priority concern, and to recommend, in their reports, measures to combat such phenomena;

12. Encourages the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue to address the issue as part of the integrated follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

13. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, at its next session, to address the subject of the traffic in women and girls under the thematic issues on violence against women and human rights of women;

14. Invites the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, at their sessions in 1998, to address trafficking in women and girls in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[27]

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular the implementation of the relevant provisions on trafficking in women and girls in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling:

(a) General Assembly resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954, Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/24 of 21 July 1997, Commission on Human Rights decision 1997/108,[42] and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolutions 1983/1, 1995/20, 1996/19 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.15;

(b) The reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women;

(c) The reports of the seminars on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children in Burkina Faso in 1991 and Sri Lanka in 1994, and

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[42] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. B.

the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;[43]

(d) The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[44] which proclaims, inter alia, that gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and which stresses the importance of working towards the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices;

(e) The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[45] which calls upon Governments and communities to urgently take steps to stop the practice of female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from all such similar dangerous practices;

(f) The Beijing Declaration[46] and Platform for Action,[47] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, which, inter alia, calls upon Governments to enact and enforce legislation against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and dowry-related violence, and to give vigorous support to the efforts of non-governmental and community organizations to eliminate such practices;

(g) The commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(h) Article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[48] which provides that States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, as reiterated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

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[43] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10/Add.1 and Corr.1.

[44] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[45] See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[46] See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[47] Ibid., annex II.

[48] Resolution 34/180, annex.

(i) General recommendation 14 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[49] concerning female genital mutilation;

(j) Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[50] which provides that States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children;

(k) The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995, in particular its resolution 8 on the elimination of violence against women;[51]

(l) The extensive work of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Girls;

Reaffirming that traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls constitute a definite form of violence against women and girls and a serious form of violation of their human rights, and expressing concern at the continuing large-scale existence of such practices,

1. Welcomes:

(a) The progress achieved by a number of Governments in their struggle against harmful traditional or customary practices; in particular, against female genital mutilation and encourages the Governments in question to continue and increase their efforts aimed at the eradication of these practices;

(b) The work carried out by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children;

(c) The joint World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund statement on female genital mutilation, which expresses a common purpose in supporting the efforts of Governments and communities to promote and protect the health and development of women and children by promoting awareness of the problem and by educating the public, health workers and those who carry out the practice, on all its health consequences;

(d) The appointment of a Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation for the United Nations Population Fund;

(e) The efforts undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women

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[49] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/45/38), para. 438.

[50] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[51] See A/CONF.169/16, chap. I.

and other United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations to raise awareness of this issue;

(f) The work carried out by non-governmental and community organizations in raising awareness of the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(g) The fact that the Commission on the Status of Women will address the critical areas of concern "Violence against women", "The girl child" and "Human rights of women" at its session in 1998 and "Women and health" at its session in 1999, and invites the Commission to address the issue of harmful traditional or customary practices during those sessions;

2. Emphasizes:

(a) The need for Governments to analyse, from a gender perspective, all policies and programmes, particularly those relating to poverty, health and violence against women, with a view to assessing their implications for women and men;

(b) The need for national legislation and/or measures prohibiting harmful traditional or customary practices as well as for their implementation, inter alia, through appropriate measures against those responsible;

(c) The need to improve women's position in society and their economic independence;

(d) The importance of education and information dissemination in raising awareness in all sectors of society of the serious consequences of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls and the responsibilities of Governments in this regard;

(e) The necessity of involving, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, medical practitioners, women's health and family planning organizations and the media in publicity campaigns, with a view to promoting a collective and individual awareness of the human rights of women and girls and of how harmful traditional or customary practices violate those rights;

(f) That information and education with regard to harmful traditional or customary practices should also be targeted at men and that they be encouraged to be responsive to such information and education;

(g) The importance of coordination between the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the relevant treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Commission on the Status of Women, including through exchange of information, and encourages them, within their respective mandates, to continue to pay attention to traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(h) The need for financial and technical assistance for developing countries from United Nations funds and programmes, as well as from international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, so as to assist Governments in combating such practices;

3. Calls upon all States:

(a) To implement their international commitments in this field, inter alia, under the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[44] the Beijing Declaration[45] and Platform for Action,[47] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[45] and the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;[43]

(b) To ratify, if they have not yet done so, the relevant human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[49] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[50] and to respect and fully implement their obligations under the relevant human rights treaties to which they are parties, emphasizing the incompatibility between the continuation of these harmful traditional or customary practices and the obligations they have voluntarily undertaken through the ratification of such international human rights instruments;

(c) To include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls;

(d) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, in particular through education, information dissemination and training, in order to achieve the total elimination of these practices;

(e) To develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation;

(f) To support women's organizations at the national and local levels that are working for the elimination of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls;

(g) To cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and to submit information on such practices with a view to enabling her to assess the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in applying the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;

(h) To cooperate closely with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization, the United

Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with relevant non-governmental and community organizations, in a joint effort to eradicate harmful traditional or customary practices affecting women and girls;

4. Decides:

(a) To invite the Commission on Human Rights to address this issue at its fifty-fourth session;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-fourth session, the outcome of the discussions in the Commission on the Status of Women on this issue, if necessary in the form of an oral report;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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33. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the advancement of women

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[52]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[53]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.[54]

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[52] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/52/38/Rev.1).

[53] A/52/337.

[54] A/52/352.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 105 entitled "Advancement of women" at its 7th to 12th meetings, from 20 to 23 October 1997, and took action on the item at its 18th, 24th, 28th, 30th, 39th and 43rd meetings, on 28 October and 3, 6, 7, 17 and 19 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.7-12, 18, 24, 28, 30, 39 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/52/281);

(b) Letter dated 19 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents issued at the Microcredit Summit, held at Washington, D.C. from 2 to 4 February 1997 (A/52/113-E/1997/18);

(c) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of

Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 25 September 1997 (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(d) Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted at the twenty-first annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 26 September 1997 (A/52/460).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 20 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.3/52/SR.7).

5. At the 9th meeting, on 21 October, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/52/SR.9).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1

6. For the action taken on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1, see document A/52/637.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17

7. For the action taken on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.17, see document A/52/637.

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.42

8. At the 39th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Chairperson, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (A/C.3/52/L.42), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.42 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995, 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001, as well as the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1]

Reaffirming that the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to that end, recognizing that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[3] and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations, and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process, and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play, and bearing in mind that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up

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[1] See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A.

[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon, and should therefore be strengthened,

Reaffirming also that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination on the basis of an integrated approach in the implementation of the Platform for Action, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, and should ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[4]

2. Welcomes the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, including their secretariats, as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society, towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action[2] adopted by the Conference;

3. Stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

4. Calls once again upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes in order to ensure effective implementation of all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action;

5. Calls for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address those issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. Draws attention to the need to give due consideration to the human rights of women and the girl child in the preparations for the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World

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[4] A/52/281.

Conference on Human Rights[5] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[6]

7. Welcomes the adoption, by the Economic and Social Council, of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] to serve as a comprehensive basis for concrete steps to achieve measurable progress in gender mainstreaming at all levels and in all areas, and endorses the definition, set of principles and specific recommendations for gender mainstreaming contained therein;

8. Welcomes the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to draw the attention of all senior managers in the United Nations system to agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council and the need to ensure full accountability for their implementation, urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that managers are held accountable for gender mainstreaming in their areas of responsibility, and requests the Secretary-General and his senior managers to ensure, inter alia, in the work of the executive committees, that gender mainstreaming is systematically integrated in the reform process of the United Nations;

9. Reiterates that gender mainstreaming as a strategy for achieving gender equality must become an integral part of all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and of national activities to follow-up and implement the Platform for Action and the outcomes of other recent United Nations conferences;

10. Directs all of its committees and bodies and draws the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work, in particular in such areas as macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security, and legal and political matters;

11. Requests all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

12. Invites other intergovernmental bodies, such as the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes, to monitor the way in which the concerned agencies, funds and programmes implement gender mainstreaming in their respective medium-term plans and programme budgets, including at the field level;

13. Reiterates the Council's request to the Secretariat to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports so as to

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[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] Resolution 217 A (III).

provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation;

14. Emphasizes that the role of gender focal points as catalysts for gender mainstreaming and in providing advice, guidance and assistance in monitoring of progress needs to be strengthened, including through adequate resources and the support of the most senior levels of management and decision-making;

15. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, building upon its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

16. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes;

17. Notes with appreciation that many Governments have developed national strategies and action plans, some of them in consultation with non-governmental organizations, and urges those Governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans as strategic planning instruments, and to do so in consultation with non-governmental organizations, in the full implementation of the Platform for Action, and to participate in the discussion, by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1998, of a synthesis of national action plans as a first step in the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action;

18. Encourages non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

19. Calls upon Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of all women and men and a broad and diverse range of institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations, in the implementation of the Platform for Action, while emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between women and men for the achievement of gender equality;

20. Recognizes the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, as well as the necessity of promoting cooperation among Governments of the same region in that respect;

21. Calls upon States to take action to fulfil the commitments for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation made at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

22. Invites the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

23. Recognizes that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

24. Reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

25. Also reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

26. Calls upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

27. Recognizes that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

28. Requests Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal access to education, training, credit, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries;

29. Stresses that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

30. Calls upon Member States to commit themselves to achieving gender balance by, inter alia, aiming at gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums and by

presenting, promoting and appointing women candidates in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations;

31. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000, taking into consideration the results of the Council's 1998 comprehensive mid-term review of the plan covering the period 1996-2001, in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments;

32. Invites the Council to devote one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and the implementation of the Platform for Action, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

33. Welcomes the Council's decision to monitor annually, under an item entitled "Integrated follow-up of major United Nations conferences", the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies mainstream a gender perspective, on the basis of the annual report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and invites once again all functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective areas of work;

34. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations and to ensure that the Division can play a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming in the new Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in the Secretariat, and through policy advisory services at the request of Governments, in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system;

35. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that resident coordinators, in the execution of their mandates, fully incorporate a gender perspective, in particular, into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences, fully utilizing all the expertise available in the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and other organizations of the United Nations system;

36. Notes the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for

Action, and encourages the strengthening of their cooperation and coordination within their respective mandates;

37. Encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women, acting as the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women, to play an especially active role in generating new ideas, proposing practical suggestions and promoting constructive implementation of the Platform for Action, including gender mainstreaming;

38. Welcomes the growing number of ratifications to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the withdrawal of reservations, and invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports, and also encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women to provide to Governments, at their request, advice on reporting under the Convention;

39. Urges States to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

40. Welcomes the progress made by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in strengthening system-wide coordination for implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming, and encourages the Committee to continue its cooperation with Administrative Committee on Coordination bodies to develop strategies, tools and methodologies, such as gender-sensitive budgeting, to enhance implementation of the Platform for Action and for gender mainstreaming, particularly at the field level;

41. Notes with appreciation the work done by the Division for the Advancement of Women and by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, inter alia, in her role as the Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action, for increased system-wide attention to gender mainstreaming, and towards the achievement of gender balance in the United Nations Secretariat and system-wide, and in that regard stresses the importance of increasing human and financial resources from all available funding sources;

42. Encourages international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women;

43. Invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

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[7] Resolution 34/180, annex.

44. Decides to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women";

45. Decides to convene, in the year 2000, a high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[8] and the Beijing Platform for Action five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General, with a view to ensuring participation at a high political level, to explore in a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session the possibility, among other options, of convening the review (a) at the start of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, (b) within the framework of the proposed millennium Assembly, if agreed upon by the General Assembly, (c) following the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, or (d) as a special session of the General Assembly;

46. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall serve as the preparatory committee for the high-level review, and as such will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and invites the Commission to take appropriate action towards that end, including giving attention to appropriate arrangements for the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the review;

47. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its forty-second session the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 45 above, thus enabling the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to decide on this issue at its fifty-second session or as soon as possible thereafter;

48. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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[8] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 23rd to 26th, 31st, 32nd, 37th and 41st meetings, on 3, 4, 10, 11, 14 and 18 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.23-26, 31, 32, 37 and 41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/52/12);[1]

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/52/273);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/52/274 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/52/360);

(f) Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/97);

(g) Letter dated 14 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the report on the policy of ethnic cleansing/genocide conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the necessity of bringing to justice the persons who committed those crimes (A/52/116-S/1997/317);

(h) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/6).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 3 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/52/SR.23).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.27

5. At the 31st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Lesotho, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/52/L.27).

6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Lesotho orally revised it as follows:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted after the sixth preambular paragraph, reading:

> "Welcoming further the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa, held on 25 September 1997, and the attention that was given to the issue of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa";

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[2] Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/52/12/Add.1).

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "the declining socio-economic situation, compounded by" were inserted between the words "Notes with concern that" and "political instability";

(c) Operative paragraph 14, which read:

"Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa";

was revised to read:

"Encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa";

(d) In operative paragraph 19, the phrase "a permanent solution" was replaced by the phrase "a durable solution".

7. At its 37th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.27, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution D).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.28

8. At the 32nd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States" (A/C.3/52/L.28). Subsequently, Japan and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 37th meeting, on 14 November, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain, also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.28 without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution II).

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Ukraine; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Azerbaijan.

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.29

12. At the 32nd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/52/L.29). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Suriname, Turkmenistan and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At the 37th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Finland orally revised the text by inserting a new operative paragraph after paragraph 9, reading:

> "10. Acknowledges the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, including addressing root causes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, providing effective protection and achieving durable solutions".

The subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

14. At the same meeting, Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Gabon, the Marshall Islands, Nigeria and Tajikistan joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. Subsequently, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Guinea, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niger, Paraguay, Samoa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan and Ukraine also joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

15. Also at the 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.29, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution III).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore and the United Republic of Tanzania.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.30

17. At the 31st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/52/L.30). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Suriname and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the 37th meeting, on 14 November, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, the Congo, Egypt, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Andorra, Cameroon, Guinea, Iraq, Israel, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), the Niger, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, the Sudan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.30 by acclamation (see para. 24, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.26

20. At the 31st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors" (A/C.3/52/L.26). Subsequently, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Georgia and Jordan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At the 41st meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the Sudan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) A new operative paragraph was inserted after paragraph 6, reading:

"Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and related instruments, while bearing in mind resolution 2 of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and to respect the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment."

The subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

22. At the same meeting, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, the Niger and Tajikistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Israel joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.26, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution V).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

24. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/71 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[4]

Noting with appreciation the efforts expended by countries of asylum in accommodating refugees,

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

Welcoming also the decision on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Council of Ministers of the

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[3] A/52/360.

[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

Organization of African Unity at its sixty-sixth ordinary session held at Harare from 28 to 31 May 1997,[5]

Welcoming further the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa, held on 25 September 1997, and the attention that was given to the issue of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa,

Taking note of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Southern African Development Community in July 1996 concerning refugees, returnees, displaced persons and undocumented migration in southern Africa,

Taking note also of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in June 1997 on refugees and returnee issues,

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling also the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention on Refugees, governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to solutions, especially voluntary repatriation,

Recognizing also the positive outcome of the conflict resolution efforts carried out in the subregion by the Economic Community of West African States, creating a conducive environment for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Noting with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes regions and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[3] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[4]

2. Notes with concern that the declining socio-economic situation, compounded by political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, such as drought, have led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

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[5] CM/Dec.362 (LXVI).

3. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for security, long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. Expresses concern at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by the unlawful expulsion, or refoulement, or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and the well-being of refugees;

5. Expresses its appreciation and strong support for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

6. Commends the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other durable solutions;

7. Expresses its gratitude to the international community, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular, for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons and to the countries of asylum;

8. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner and at addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

9. Reiterates that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

10. Calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner and other concerned entities to intensify protection activities by, inter alia, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. Appeals to Governments, the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create

conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

12. Appeals to the international community to respond positively to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

13. Commends the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and of the Horn of Africa and the Office of the High Commissioner for their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the regions;

14. Encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. Welcomes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with host Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, in concentrating on the environment and eco-systems of countries of asylum;

16. Notes with satisfaction the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. Expresses its concern about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. Urges the international community to continue to fund the general refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa;

19. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system on the basis of the experience of the emergency in the Great Lakes region and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Africa until a durable solution can be found;

20. Calls upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

21. Requests all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

22. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including refugees in urban areas;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995 and, in particular, 51/70 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[6] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[7]

Recognizing the acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration towards developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-

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[6] A/52/274 and Corr.1.

[7] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

building and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Convinced of the necessity for further strengthening of practical measures towards the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference,[8]

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support of the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aiming at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[9] and its 1967 Protocol,[10]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[6] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[7]

2. Notes the positive results achieved by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference and invites these organizations to continue to steer the ongoing and future activities relating to the follow-up of the Conference;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Governments of those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States that, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, have undertaken practical steps in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[8] A/51/341 and Corr.1, annex, appendix.

[9] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[10] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

4. Invites all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support the implementation of the Programme of Action in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and underlines the necessity of an appropriate response by the international community to appeals for funds by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration;

6. Calls upon States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

7. Invites international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Invites the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral and subregional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in the process leading up to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular human rights and refugee protection principles, and to lend high-level political support to ensure progress in its implementation;

10. Emphasizes the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

11. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to her mandate;

12. Encourages the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, inviting them to demonstrate stronger support for the process of the multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of the countries concerned and further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

13. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as international organizations to further strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and increase their

involvement in the implementation of the outcome and follow-up of the Conference;

14. Asks also the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance its relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other human rights, development and financial institutions, in order to better address the wide-ranging and complex issues in the Programme of Action;

15. Recognizes the importance of undertaking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law including humanitarian law and international human rights standards, to prevent situations leading to new flows of refugees and displaced persons, and other forms of involuntary displacement;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to continue examination of this question at its fifty-third session under the appropriate agenda item.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[11] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session,[12]

Recalling its resolution 51/75 of 12 December 1996,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[13] and the 1967 Protocol[14] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-five States are now parties to one or both instruments,

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[11] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

[12] Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/52/12/Add.1).

[13] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[14] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members whose lives have been endangered in the course of their duties, and deploring the deaths of staff members as a consequence of violent events in several countries around the world,

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session;[12]

2. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees;

3. Deplores the immense human suffering and loss of life that have accompanied refugee flows and other forced displacements, in particular numerous serious threats to the security or well-being of refugees, refoulement, unlawful expulsion, physical attacks and detention under unacceptable conditions, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

4. Emphasizes that refugee protection is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

5. Reaffirms that everyone is entitled to the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution and, as asylum is an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees, calls on all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law;

6. Stresses the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, and urges all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate in efforts to lighten the burden borne by States that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees;

7. Condemns all acts that pose a threat to the personal security of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon States of refuge, with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements is maintained, as well as to abstain from any activity likely to undermine this, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, the identification and separation of any such armed elements from refugee populations, the settlement of refugees in secure locations and

affording prompt, unhindered and safe access to them to the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations;

8. Calls upon States and all concerned parties to refrain from any actions that prevent or obstruct the staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian personnel from performing the functions required under their mandates, to take all possible measures to safeguard their physical security and property, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes and to facilitate the discharge of the mandated functions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as of other humanitarian organizations;

9. Urges all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, and welcomes in particular the ongoing efforts of her Office to pursue, wherever possible, opportunities to promote conditions conducive to the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. Acknowledges the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, including addressing root causes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, providing effective protection and achieving durable solutions;

11. Recognizes the value of comprehensive regional approaches in which the High Commissioner has played a significant part in both countries of origin and countries of asylum, encourages States, in coordination and cooperation with each other and with international organizations, if applicable, to consider adopting protection-based comprehensive and regional approaches that conform fully with universally recognized standards and respond to particular regional initiatives, circumstances and protection needs;

12. Reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity;

13. Reiterates the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum and have been determined not to be refugees;

14. Calls upon all States to promote conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to support their sustainable reintegration by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant development agencies, and, in view of the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing conditions that give rise to refugee

outflows, urges the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate and at the request of the Government concerned, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in view of creating conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, urges the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with relevant development agencies;

15. Calls upon States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and to ensure that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and strengthen its efforts for the protection of refugee women;

16. Urges States and relevant parties to respect and observe principles of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the rights of child and adolescent refugees, and noting the particular vulnerability of refugee children to being forcibly exposed to the risks of injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, urges all States and concerned parties to take all possible measures to protect child and adolescent refugees, including, in particular, from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and preventing their separation from their families;

17. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, countries in transition and countries with limited resources, that, due to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are fully met.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/104 of 16 December 1992, in which it decided to review, not later than at its fifty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1998,

Recognizing the need for concerted international action on behalf of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

Considering the outstanding work that has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection and material assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

Noting with deep appreciation the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with various essential humanitarian tasks entrusted to it,

1. Decides to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1999;

2. Also decides to review, not later than at its fifty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 2003.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994, 50/150 of 21 December 1995 and 51/73 of 12 December 1996,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming its effort in reunifying family members of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the reunification of family members of refugees,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[15] and the 1951 Convention[16] and the 1967 Protocol[17] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[18]

2. Expresses its deep concern at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. Expresses the hope once again that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate policies that aim at preventing refugee family separation into its programmes, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. Urges the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and related instruments, while bearing in mind resolution 2 of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and to respect the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

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[15] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[16] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[17] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[18] A/52/273.

8. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

9. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, and to give special attention to the girl-child refugee in his report.

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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 19th to 22nd, 28th, 35th, 37th and 39th meetings, on 30 and 31 October and 6, 13, 14 and 17 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.19-22, 28, 35, 37 and 39).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/52/348);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the exploitation of child labour (A/52/523);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/52/482);

(d) Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan transmitting the text of the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the Convention on the

Rights of the Child in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, which was held at Ashgabat from 20 to 22 February 1997 (A/52/90);

(e) Letter dated 14 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the report on the policy of ethnic cleansing/genocide conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the necessity of bringing to justice the persons who committed these crimes in accordance with international principles of due process, and the conclusions of the State Commission of Georgia for the Investigation of the Policy of Ethnic Cleansing/Genocide carried out against the Georgian Population in Abkhazia, Georgia (A/52/116-S/1997/317);

(f) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(g) Letter dated 6 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General enclosing the text of the five main resolutions adopted at the ninety-eighth session of the General Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Cairo from 11 to 16 September 1997 (A/52/437);

(h) Letter dated 10 October 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the views of the Government of the Republic of Cuba concerning the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Cuba's initial report to that treaty body (A/C.3/52/3).

4. At its 19th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children in Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (see A/C.3/52/SR.19).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.24

5. At the 28th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands,

New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/52/L.24).

6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Namibia orally revised it as follows:

(a) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "including the need for better protection of child victims and witnesses" was added;

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the phrase "Stressing that discrimination of the girl child and neglect might" was replaced by the phrase "Stressing that discrimination and neglect of the girl child can";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 8, the phrase "and to take into account the special needs of the girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance" was added;

(d) Operative paragraph 16, which read:

> "Encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination among all human rights treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and requests that they regularly and systematically take a gender perspective into account in the implementation of their mandates, including information and qualitative analysis in their reports on violations of the human rights of women and the girl child."

was replaced by the following:

> "Requests all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission of Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to regularly and systematically adopt a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of violations of human rights of women and girls and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard."

7. At the 37th meeting, on 14 November, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Belarus, Cameroon, Canada, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.24, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Malta (see A/C.3/52/SR.37).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.25

10. At the 28th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "The rights of the child" (A/C.3/52/L.25). Subsequently, Angola, Barbados, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Guyana, Kenya, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Solomon Islands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At the 35th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the United States of America introduced amendments (A/C.3/52/L.39) to section IV of the daft resolution, by which:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the phrase "in violation of the law of armed conflict and the Convention on the Rights of the Child" would be inserted after the word "situations";

(b) In operative paragraph 9, the phrase "in violation of the law of armed conflict and the Convention on the Rights of the Child" would be inserted after the word "soldiers";

(c) Operative paragraph 14 would be replaced with the following text:

"Reaffirms its support for its previous recommendations and those of the Commission on Human Rights and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent concerning the assessment and monitoring of the consequences of sanctions upon children, as well as those concerning humanitarian relief"

12. At the 39th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement and withdrew the above-mentioned amendments (see A/C.3/52/SR.39).

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[1] On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

13. At the same meeting, the Bahamas, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Senegal, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.25, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

C. Draft decision

15. At its 39th meeting, on 17 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/52/348) and the report of the Secretary-General on the exploitation of child labour (A/52/523) (see draft decision, para. 17).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

16. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995, 50/154 of 21 December 1995, 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/76 of 12 December 1996,

Also recalling the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[2] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

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[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Action of the World Conference on Human Rights,[5] held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children,[6] held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs[7] adopted at the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990, and the Declaration and Agenda for Action[8] of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996,

Deeply concerned that girls, in particular adolescent girls, continue to be silent and invisible victims of violence, abuse and exploitation and that some legal systems do not address adequately the vulnerability of girls in the administration of justice including the need for better protection of child victims and witnesses,

Recalling that in 1998 the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be observed and the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development will be carried out and that the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session will review the implementation of the sections of the Platform for Action on the girl child and the human rights of women,

Welcomes the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, in accordance with section II of Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996,

Stressing that discrimination and neglect of the girl child can initiate a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition, physical and mental health care and to girls enjoying fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices such as incest, early marriage, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

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[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] See A/45/625, annex.

[7] Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendices I and II.

[8] A/51/385, annex.

Also deeply concerned that in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among the victims most affected and thus their potential for full development is limited,

Concerned that the girl child has become a victim of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and sexually transmitted diseases, which affects the quality of her life and leaves her open to further discrimination,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, inter alia, in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10]

1. Stresses the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Urges all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms;

3. Also urges all States to enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

4. Calls upon all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively:

(a) To set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the rights and needs of children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to take into account the rights and particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

(b) To take measures to ensure the non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the girl child with disabilities;

(c) To generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age for marriage, in particular by providing educational opportunities for girls;

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[9] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[10] Resolution 44/25, annex.

(d) To give attention to the rights and needs of adolescent girls, which call for special action for their protection from sexual and economic exploitation and abuse, harmful traditional and cultural practices, teenage pregnancy and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and for the development of life skills and self-esteem, reaffirming that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout the life cycle must begin with the girl child at all ages;

(e) To take measures to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote gender-sensitive socialization of boys and girls from early childhood, aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace within the family and the community;

(f) To ensure the equal participation of girls and young women on the basis of non-discrimination and as partners with boys and young men in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and the implementation of action aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

(g) To strengthen and reorient health education and health services, in particular primary health-care programmes, including sexual and reproductive health, and to design quality health programmes that meet the physical and mental needs of girls and attend to the needs of young expectant and nursing mothers;

5. Urges States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

6. Also urges States to eliminate all barriers so as to enable girls, without exception, to develop their full potential and skills through equal access to education and training;

7. Encourages States to consider ways and means to ensure the continuing education of married women, pregnant women and young mothers;

8. Urges States to take special measures for the protection of children, in particular to protect girls from rape and other forms of sexual abuse and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, in line with the recommendations of the expert appointed by the Secretary-General to study the impact of armed conflict on children and to take into account the special needs of the girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

9. Urges States parties to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual trafficking and child prostitution;

10. Urges States to implement measures to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

11. Requests all States to implement, on an urgent basis, measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

12. Calls upon Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and the full respect for and enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate information materials on these rights to all sectors of society, and particularly to children;

13. Calls upon Governments to encourage efforts by civil society, non-governmental organizations including women's organizations, to establish community-based groups or local committees which could assist with the safety and welfare of children;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child in the implementation of the outcome of all recent global conferences, in particular the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001;[11]

15. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights, while considering, in accordance with the agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council[12] its input to the Commission on the Status of Women on ensuring women's equal enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to economic resources, to pay particular attention to all the human rights of the girl child;

16. Requests all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission

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[12] See A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, sect. A; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3.

on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to regularly and systematically adopt a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on and qualitative analysis of violations of human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

17. Calls upon States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

18. Calls upon all States, all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to implement commitments to goals and actions relating to the girl child and to report on initiatives and progress to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, pursuant to the decision of the Commission to review the progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women relating to the girl child in 1998.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/77 and 51/76 of 12 December 1996, 51/186 of 16 December 1996 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/78,

Also recalling the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990, notably its solemn commitment to give high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, and reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which, inter alia, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to combat exploitation and abuse of children such as female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution and child pornography as well as other forms of sexual abuse, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

Underlining the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes relating to children,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, exploitation, racism and all forms of intolerance, unemployment, rural-to-urban migration,

Inviting Member States to promote the values of peace, understanding, and dialogue in the education of children, and awareness of the urgent need to combat poverty, malnutrition, and illiteracy worldwide,

Recognizing that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of the rights of the child, that stronger political commitment is needed and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action,

Recommending that within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and where their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Stressing the need to strengthen partnerships between Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in order to achieve these objectives,

Reaffirming that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Welcomes the unprecedented number of 191 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

2. Urges once again all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence established by the World Summit for Children and reiterated by the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action;

3. Recognizes the important role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in creating awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention and in providing recommendations to States parties on its implementation;

4. Invites the Committee on the Rights of the Child to further enhance the constructive dialogue with the States Parties and the transparent and effective functioning of the Committee;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and takes note of the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

6. Urges States parties to cooperate closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to comply in

a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee;

7. Also calls upon States parties to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing other reservations;

8. Recalls that the amendment to article 43 (2) of the Convention, which would increase the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 experts, was adopted by the Conference of States parties on 12 December 1995, that this amendment was approved by the General Assembly on 21 December 1995 in its resolution 50/155, and therefore calls upon States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

9. Calls upon States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education be directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

10. Also calls upon States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42 of the Convention, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike, and also calls upon States parties to encourage training on the rights of the child for those involved in activities concerning children, for example through the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights;

11. Stresses that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children as emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress at mid-decade on implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children;

12. Encourages the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

II

Children with disabilities

1. Welcomes the increased attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the equal enjoyment by children with disabilities of the rights of the child;

2. Calls upon all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, and to develop and enforce legislation against discrimination against children with disabilities;

3. Also calls upon all States to promote for children with disabilities a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community;

4. Emphasizes the right to education as a human right, and calls upon States to make education accessible to children with special educational needs in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, and to adopt an integrated approach to providing adequate support and appropriate education for such children;

5. Welcomes the decision by the Economic and Social Council to request the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities of the Commission for Social Development to pay special attention to children with disabilities, and the invitation to enhance the cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and also requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund to work closely with him;

6. Calls upon all States, in complying with their reporting obligations to the Committee under article 44 (1) of the Convention, to include, in accordance with the Committee's guidelines,[13] information on the situation and the needs of children with disabilities, including disaggregated data, and on the measures taken to ensure to such children their enjoyment of the rights under the Convention;

III

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography

1. Welcomes the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[14] and expresses its support for her work in examining, all over the world, the question of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to make the full discharge of the mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session;

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[14] A/52/482.

3. Supports the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing that work before the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil their obligation under article 34 of the Convention, and also calls upon all States to support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting effective national, bilateral and multilateral measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography, in particular by criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children;

5. Requests all States to implement on an urgent basis measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

6. Calls upon States to criminalize all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including commercial sexual exploitation, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children victims of this practice are not penalized;

7. Also calls upon States to review and revise, where appropriate, laws, policies, programmes and practices to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including commercial sexual exploitation;

8. Further calls upon States to enforce relevant laws, policies and programmes to protect children from sexual exploitation, in particular by penalizing all those offenders involved, and to strengthen communication and cooperation between law enforcement authorities;

9. Stresses the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children;

10. Urges States, in cases of sex tourism, to develop or strengthen and implement laws to criminalize the acts of nationals of the countries of origin when committed against children in the countries of destination, to ensure that a person who exploits a child for sexual abuse purposes in another country is prosecuted by competent national authorities, either in the country of origin or in the country of destination, to strengthen laws and law enforcement, including confiscation and seizure of assets and profits and other sanctions, against those who commit sexual crimes against children in countries of destination, and to share relevant data;

11. Requests States to step up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking in children;

12. Invites States to allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and to rehabilitate into society child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and to take all appropriate measures to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration;

IV

Protection of children affected by armed conflict

1. Expresses grave concern at the numerous damaging effects of armed conflicts on children, including the use of children as combatants in such situations, and emphasizes the need for the world community to focus increased attention on this serious problem with a view to bringing it to an end;

2. Invites all States to accede to relevant international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, and urges them to implement those instruments to which they are parties;

3. Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the additional protocols thereto of 1977, while bearing in mind resolution 2 of the twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and to respect the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

4. Calls upon States and United Nations bodies and organizations to treat children during conflict and in post-conflict situations as a priority concern in human rights, humanitarian and development activities, including in field operations and country programmes, to enhance coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system and to ensure effective protection for children affected by armed conflict;

5. Recommends that the humanitarian concerns relating to children affected by armed conflict and their protection be fully reflected in United Nations field operations, which, inter alia, promote peace, prevent and resolve conflicts, and implement peace agreements;

6. Underlines the importance that measures to ensure respect for the rights of the child, including in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery, and social reintegration, be included within emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

7. Stresses the need for Governments and other parties to armed conflict to take measures, including the establishment, for example, of "days of tranquillity" and "corridors of peace", to ensure humanitarian access, the delivery of humanitarian relief and the provision of services, such as education and health, including immunization of children affected by armed conflict;

8. Supports the work of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflict, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

9. Urges States and all other parties to armed conflict to adopt all necessary measures to end the use of children as soldiers and to ensure their demobilization and reintegration into society, including through adequate education and training, in a manner that fosters their self-respect and dignity, and invites the international community to assist in this endeavour;

10. Welcomes increased international efforts in various forums with respect to anti-personnel mines, recognizes the positive effect on children of those efforts, and in this regard takes due note of the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction and its implementation by those States that become parties to it, as well as of the amended Mines Protocol of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects;

11. Calls upon all States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, to contribute on an ongoing basis to international mine clearance efforts, and urges States to take further action to promote gender- and age-appropriate mine-awareness programmes and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number and the plight of child victims;

12. Reaffirms that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and calls upon all States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from all acts of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and forced pregnancy, to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

13. Urgently requests that appropriate measures be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to ensure humanitarian access to children affected by armed conflict, to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance, including education, and to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of child soldiers, victims of landmines and victims of gender-based violence;

14. Recommends that whenever sanctions are imposed their impact on children be assessed and monitored and humanitarian exceptions be child-focused and formulated with clear application guidelines;

15. Recalls the importance of preventive measures such as early warning systems, preventive diplomacy and education for peace to prevent conflicts and

their negative impact on the rights of the child, and urges Governments and the international community to promote sustainable human development;

16. Calls upon all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in their armed forces' training and education programmes, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, particularly women and children;

17. Welcomes the appointment of Mr. Olara Otunnu as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996;

18. Invites Governments, specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies, notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to cooperate with the Special Representative and to contribute to his work, including his annual report;

19. Recommends that the Secretary-General ensure that the necessary support is made available to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his mandate, encourages the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support to the Special Representative, and calls upon States and other institutions to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

20. Invites Member States and relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to consider how the impact of armed conflict on children can best be integrated into events designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the Convention;

V

Refugee and internally displaced children

1. Urges Governments to pay particular attention to the situation of refugee and internally displaced children by continuing to design and improve the implementation of policies for their care and well-being with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund and international humanitarian organizations;

2. Calls upon States and United Nations bodies, in recognizing the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children, to protect both their safety and their developmental needs, including health, education, and psycho-social rehabilitation;

3. Expresses its deep concern about the growing number of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children, and calls upon all States and United

Nations bodies and agencies to ensure the early identification and registration of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children, to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification, and to continue monitoring the care arrangements for unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children;

4. Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflicts to recognize the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children to the damaging effects of such conflicts, stresses the special vulnerability of child-headed households, and calls upon Governments and United Nations bodies to give these situations urgent attention, to enhance protection and assistance mechanisms, and to involve women and youth in the design, delivery, and monitoring of measures taken to this effect;

5. Invites the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to take into account the situation of internally displaced children in his preparation of guiding principles which are to form part of a comprehensive framework for the protection of internally displaced persons;

VI

Elimination of exploitation of child labour

1. Reaffirms the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to or interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

2. Welcomes the measures taken by Governments to eliminate the exploitation of child labour, while recalling the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour, and calls upon relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

3. Also welcomes the recent holding of various international conferences on various forms of child labour;

4. Further welcomes the efforts by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the area of child labour, takes note of its recommendations and encourages the Committee as well as other relevant human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, to continue to monitor this growing problem when examining reports of States parties;

5. Calls upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of all forms of exploitative child labour, and urges them, as a matter of priority, to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

6. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization concerning the

abolition of forced labour and the minimum age for employment, including for particularly hazardous work for children, and to implement those conventions;

7. Calls upon all States to support the negotiation, with a view to its early finalization, by the International Labour Organization of a future instrument aimed at eradicating the most intolerable forms of child labour;

8. Also calls upon all States to set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and for ensuring the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, enacting legislation necessary to implement their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organization standards ensuring the protection of working children;

9. Further calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and ensuring that all children have access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour;

10. Also calls upon all States to systematically assess and examine, in close cooperation with international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, the magnitude, nature and causes of the exploitation of child labour, and to develop and implement strategies for combating these practices, with a specific emphasis on the situation of girls, their right to education and access to schools on an equal basis with boys, in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

11. Calls upon all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation, as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child, including the exploitation of child labour;

VII

The plight of children living and/or working on the streets

1. Expresses grave concern at the large number of children living and/or working on the streets, and at the continued growth in incidents and reports worldwide of such children being affected by serious crime, drug trafficking and abuse, violence and prostitution;

2. Welcomes the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to tackle this multifaceted problem;

3. Calls upon Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions for the problems of children living and/or working on the streets, including by helping to alleviate the poverty of such children, their families, or guardians, by taking measures to ensure their reintegration into society, and by providing, inter alia, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and

education, taking into account that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

4. Emphasizes that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in efforts to deal with this problem, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights treaty monitoring bodies continue to give attention to it when examining the reports of States parties;

5. Strongly urges all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of children living and/or working on the streets and to combat torture and violence against them, and to ensure strict compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments, including the requirement that legal and juridical processes respect the rights of the child;

6. Calls upon the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of such children and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to take full account of the particular needs and rights of such children and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving their situation;

VIII

Decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in the present resolution;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights an annual report containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

(c) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-third session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of the child".

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17. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the exploitation of child labour.[2]

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[1] A/52/348.

[2] A/52/523.